



FROM :

FAX NO. :

ORIGINAL

Feb. 04 2002 03:59PM P1

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

BURLAND & ASSOCIATES, INC.
LOUISIANA GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**RECEIVED**

FEB 14 2002

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**Fax Memorandum**
Confidential Communications

TO: Federal Communications Commission
202-418-1196 Fax

FROM: Jimmy Burland

Cc: Congressman W. J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee

DATE: February 4, 2002

PAGES: 11, including this page.

RE: Support Letters from Louisiana to FCC
DIRECTV-EchoStar Merger Docket No. 01-348

Attached for the public record, Docket No. 01-348, are the following letters of support for the DIRECTV-EchoStar satellite TV merger which have already been mailed to you from the State of Louisiana:

1. Governor, State of Louisiana (Hon. Mike Foster)
2. Secretary, Louisiana Department of Economic Development (Don Hutchinson)
3. Chairman, Louisiana Public Service Commission (Hon. Jimmy Field)
4. Louisiana Public Service Commissioner, Fourth District (Hon. Dale Sittig)
5. Mayor-President, City/Parish of Baton Rouge/East Baton Rouge Parish, LA (Bobby Simpson)
6. Sec./Treas., Louisiana Acadiana Legislative Caucus (LA Rep. Mickey Frith)
7. President, Louisiana Municipal Association. (Tom Ed McHugh)
8. Executive Director, Louisiana Police Jury Association. (Roland Dartez)
9. Louisiana Agriculture Consultants (Gerald A. Simmons)

Attachments

No. of Copies rec'd 2
List ABCDE**PLEASE CONTACT US IF IMMEDIATELY IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES**

State of Louisiana



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.
Governor

Don J. Hutchinson
Secretary

January 24, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

RE: Support of Pending Merger of DIRECTV and EchoStar Satellite Systems

I am writing in support of the proposed EchoStar/DIRECTV merger, as I understand their plans, and ask that the matter get a thorough, fair and timely review on its merits.

Creation of a new satellite company with the technology to match both cable TV's offerings in programming choices and high-speed Internet access would benefit our state's consumers and serve as a healthy competitive stimulus.

For those Louisiana communities already served by cable and satellite providers, the additional of satellite-delivered Internet services represents a competitive choice. For our rural residents that are not offered cable TV or broadband, such a service would provide affordable access to the digital future.

In view of its benefits to consumers and support of the free market system, I look on the merger favorably. It is my hope that the FCC will approve it without unnecessary delay or unreasonable conditions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don J. Hutchinson".

Don J. Hutchinson
Secretary of Economic Development

DJH:dh

Cc: Congressman W. J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

2-04-2002 4:33AM

FROM CREATIVE COMMUNICAT 6049227771

P. 2



JIMMY FIELD
Commissioner

Louisiana Public Service Commission

One American Place, Suite 1510
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70825

January 4, 2002

District II
(225) 342-6900
(225) 342-6912 fax
1-800-256-6004

Congressman W.J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee
107 Federal Building
Houma, La. 70360

RE: Support of Pending Merger of DIRECTTV and EchoStar Satellite Systems

Dear Congressman Tauzin:

I am writing on behalf of several constituents who are interested in our support of the proposed EchoStar/DirectTV merger. I am informed that the creation of such a new satellite company would offer great benefits to many rural Louisiana consumers. In addition to improving the pay-TV market, it will enable many rural citizens better access to high-speed Internet service.

As you know, the Louisiana Public Service Commission has no jurisdiction over any aspects of the merger and my interest is solely on behalf of some of my constituents. However, in view of these apparent benefits to consumers throughout Louisiana, I am inclined to look favorably on the merger and would like very much to know your thoughts.

As always, if there is ever anything I or my staff can do to help you, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Jimmy Field, written in dark ink, appearing as a stylized, cursive name.

Jimmy Field
Louisiana Public Service Commissioner

FROM :

01/31/2002 11:20

FAX NO. :

Feb. 04 2002 04:01PM P5

P. 02/02



Louisiana Public Service Commission

DALE SITTING
Commissioner

POST OFFICE BOX 928
EUNICE, LA 70535

FOURTH DISTRICT
337/457-7395
1-800/258-2490

January 31, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Support of Pending Merger of DIRECTTV and EchoStar Satellite Systems

Dear Chairman Powell,

I am writing in support of the proposed EchoStar/DIRECTTV merger.

It is my opinion that the new company will bring new technology into the world of cable, offering high speed internet access, along with many other services that will benefit the consumers of this state.

Being a representative of a large rural area of the state which is presently not served by cable tv, satellite broadband would provide affordable access to these residents.

I know that you will give this issue a fair hearing and hope the FCC will approve the merger.

Thanking you in advance for your consideration. I am.

Respectfully,

Dale Sitting
Commissioner, Fourth District

DS/jaf

cc:file

TOTAL P. 02

**Office of the Mayor-President**

City of Baton Rouge
Parish of East Baton Rouge

222 St. Louis Street
Post Office Box 1471
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821

225/389-3100
Fax 225/389-3213

BOBBY SIMPSON
Mayor-President

January 25, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Support of Pending Merger of DIRECTV and EchoStar Satellite Systems

Dear Chairman Powell:

As Mayor-President of Baton Rouge, Louisiana I am writing in support of the proposed EchoStar/DIRECTV merger and ask that the matter get a thorough, fair and timely review on its merits.

Creation of a new satellite company with the size and technology to match cable TV's offerings in programming choices and high-speed Internet access would benefit our states' consumers and serve as a healthy competitive stimulus for the pay-TV market.

For those Louisiana communities already served by cable and satellite providers, the addition of satellite-delivered Internet services represents a competitive choice. For our rural residents that are not served by cable, satellite broadband would provide affordable access to the digital future.

In view of its benefits to consumers and support of the free market system, I look on the merger favorably. It is my hope that the FCC will approve it without necessary delay or unreasonable conditions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bobby Simpson", is written over a horizontal line.

Bobby Simpson
Mayor-President

cc: **Congressman W. J. "Billy" Tauzin**
Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

A COMMUNITY WITH CHARACTER... A COMMUNITY THAT CARES



Agriculture
Commerce
Natural Resources

Courthouse Building
100 North State Street • Suite 130
Abbeville, Louisiana 70510
E-Mail: leep047@legis.state.la.us
Telephone: (337) 893-5035 • (337) 643-7381
Fax: (337) 898-1160

STATE OF LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MICKEY FRITH
District 47

January 14, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Support of Pending Merger of DIRECTV and EchoStar Satellite Systems

Dear Chairman Powell:

As an State Representative from Abbeville, Louisiana I am writing in support of the proposed EchoStar/DIRECTV merger and ask that the matter get a thorough, fair and timely review on its merits.

Creation of a new satellite company with the size and technology to match cable TV's offerings in programming choices and high-speed Internet access would benefit our states' consumers and serve as a healthy competitive stimulus for the pay-TV market.

For those Louisiana communities already served by cable and satellite providers, the addition of satellite-delivered Internet services represents a competitive choice. For our rural residents that are not served by cable satellite broadband would provide affordable access to the digital future.

In view of its benefits to consumers and support of the free market system, I look on the merger favorably. It is my hope that the FCC will approve it without unnecessary delay or unreasonable conditions.

Sincerely,

Mickey Frith

Representative Mickey Frith
District 47

Cc: Congressman W.J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

FROM :

FAX NO. :

Feb. 04 2002 04:02PM PB

FROM CREATIVE COMMUNICAT 5049227771
01/08/02 14:15 FAX 800 344 3007
LA MUNICIPAL ASSOC

P. 1

01/08/02

LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

OFFICERS

President
Edward G. Rando, Jr.
Mayor, Alexandria

First Vice President
Robby B. Simpson
Mayor, Frankston, MS

Second Vice President
Ronald C. Davis
Mayor, Gretna

Executive Director
Tom Ed McHugh

January 8, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Support of Pending Merger of DIRECTV and EchoStar Satellite Systems

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of the members of the Louisiana Municipal Association of Baton Rouge, I am writing in support of the proposed EchoStar/DIRECTV merger and ask that the matter get a thorough, fair, and timely review on its merits.

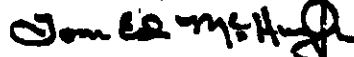
Creation of a new satellite company with the size and technology to match cable TV's offerings in programming choices and high-speed Internet access would benefit our states' consumers and serve as a healthy competitive stimulus for the pay-TV market.

For those Louisiana communities already served by cable and satellite providers, the addition of satellite-delivered Internet services represents a competitive choice. For our rural residents that are not served by cable, satellite broadband would provide affordable access to the digital future.

In view of its benefits to consumers and support of the free market system, we look on the merger favorably. It is our hope that the FCC will approve it without unnecessary delay or unreasonable conditions.

Sincerely,

LOUISIANA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION



Tom Ed McHugh
Executive Director

TEM:cnb

cc: Congressman W.J. "Billy" Tauzin

Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee
700 North Tenth Street • P. O. Box 4327 • Baton Rouge, LA 70821 • (225) 344-3001 • 1-800-234-6274 • Fax (225) 344-3057

Please visit our website at www.lamunla.org

JAN 15 2002 11:13 FR

TO 9227771

P.01/02

PAGE 003

JAN 14 2002 13:30



Police Jury Association of Louisiana, Inc.

707 North 7th Street • Baton Rouge, LA 70802-8327
 PH (225) 343-2838 • FAX (225) 343-0050 or (225) 336-1344

January 3, 2002

Honorable John Breaux
 United States Senate
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Breaux:

I hope you and your family enjoyed the holiday season and thanks for all of your hard work in the U.S. Senate. You continue to make all of us very proud to have you representing our state.

I wanted to take a moment to write and express my support for the proposed merger between EchoStar and Hughes Electronics. I think this new combined satellite company could bring some exciting benefits to Louisiana, especially in the rural area. The National Association of Counties (NACo) has for many years endorsed the concept of expanding all forms of digital service to rural America.

Overcoming the so-called "digital divide" that exists between urban and rural residents is many times one of the biggest hurdles in economic development in the rural areas. This combined company should be able to provide high-speed satellite Internet and broadband service to rural America that are not currently available.

I know you will give this matter thoughtful consideration and please let us know if we can ever be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

POLICE JURY ASSOCIATION
 OF LOUISIANA, INC.

BY:

RJC
 Roland J. Darte
 Executive Director

RJD:cwr

OFFICERS

Walter Savage
 President

Roland J. Darte
 Executive Secretary

William J. Darte, Jr.
 Legal Counsel

Lincoln Parish Assn. ON

WJ07:21 2002 01-02P

FROM :

FAX NO. :

Feb. 04 2002 04:03PM P10

JAN 15 2002 11:13 FR

TO 9227771

P.02/02

000 5000

LS:60 2002 CI NUF

Chairmen Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. S.W.
Washington DC 20554

Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General, United States
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Same Address as above:
CC: Charles James
Assistant Attorney General

Honorable Richard Ieyoub
Attorney General, State of Louisiana
P.O. Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

*Will be sending
letters to the above above.
JD*

January 10, 2002

Chairman Michael Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Support of Pending Merger of DIRECTV
and EchoStar Satellite Systems

Dear Chairman Powell:

On behalf of rural agriculture, I am writing in support of the proposed EchoStar/DIRECTV merger and ask that the matter get a thorough, fair and timely review on its merits.

Creation of a new satellite company with the size and technology to match cable TV's offerings in programming choices and high-speed Internet access would benefit our states' consumers and serve as a health competitive stimulus for the pay-TV market.

For those Louisiana communities already served by cable and satellite providers, the addition of satellite-delivered Internet services represents a competitive choice. For our rural residents that are not served by cable, satellite broadband would provide affordable access to the digital future.

In view of its benefits to consumers and support of the free market system, I look on the merger favorably. It is my hope that the FCC will approve it without unnecessary delay or unreasonable conditions.

Sincerely,

Gerald A. Simmons

cc: Congressman W. J. "Billy" Tauzin
Chairman, House Energy & Commerce Committee
107 Federal Building
Houma, LA 70360

bcc: Jimmy Burland